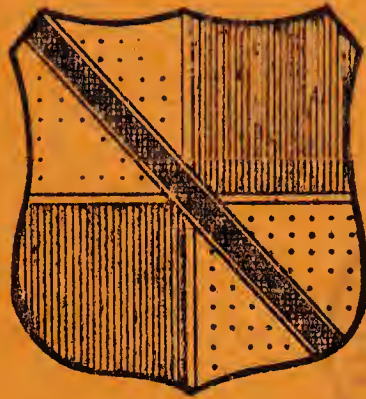


Nantwich Rural District.



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1949,

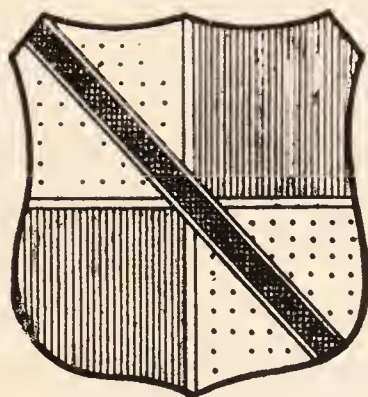
by

A. LENNOX THORBURN, M.D.
D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

To which is appended the Report of
JOHN S. TOWNLEY, Cert. S.I.B., A.M. Inst. P.C.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.


Nantwich Rural District.



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STAPELEY HOUSE,
NANTWICH.

5th July, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council:—

Gentlemen,

Our vital statistics for this year show that:—

- (1) The average expectation of life has been and is still increasing.
- (2) The Birth Rate is at its highest level since 1921.
- (3) Maternal and Infant mortality are each year achieving new low records.
- (4) The proportion of still births is steadily diminishing.

These results are most gratifying.

“What heredity can do environment can also do”—has offered the Clinician some hope that it might be within his power to prevent those disturbances which result in a host of congenital abnormalities. The recognition that a trivial infection like measles in the mother during pregnancy may determine the development of such abnormalities as cataract, deafness and cardiac disease in the child, has strengthened such hopes and stimulated world-wide investigation.

The Centenary of the Public Health Service also witnessed the inauguration of a comprehensive National Health Service and certain public figures have proudly announced that the inauguration was effected without any breakdown in service to the patient. Every member of the Public will reserve his or her own personal point of view in this matter.

It is sincerely hoped that there will be immediate treatment and immediate staffed beds for all who require them as soon as possible.

One of the greatest services to all mankind in this country will be accomplished when the 11,000 T.B. Patients, now sick at home, are being properly looked after in sanatoria. Treatment for those who secure a bed has improved, but preventive and after-care is less satisfactory than before.

This is the last great epidemic disease to be seriously dealt with in this country. Its eradication is within our grasp if all present knowledge and therapeutic resources are employed. In my opinion the National approach to the problem lacks inspiration both centrally and in the regions.

The vexed problem of how to deal with the causes of delinquency and also the delinquents themselves should focus our immediate attention to this urgent matter. Psychologists have attributed these delinquents' behaviour to a lack of leadership, affection and security in the home and among other factors the internal conflict in the juvenile mind from disharmony in the marital relationship, and broken marriages. The environmental hazards for children, as for adults, change with each generation. In the Victorian homes, although there was complaint of the rigidity of the moral code, narrowness of religious practice and of harshness of discipline, there was no doubt that the Victorian knew where he was going and where he wanted his children to go. There is much to be said for the dictum "Spare the rod and spoil the child."

Let us search well for the solution to the problem. The psychiatrist and Child Guidance Clinic, in my opinion, are by no means a solution, but a stop-gap. It is more than likely that by our ignorance, neglect or error that we are making some new risk for the children of tomorrow.

Parents of the unfortunate children suffering from cerebral palsy and spastic paralysis will be cheered to know that besides the two large schools at Croydon and Carshalton for these grave complaints there is now a definite promise of similar schools in four other centres.

I am. Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. LENNOX THORBURN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Nantwich Rural District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	100,823
Population	26,380
Number of inhabited houses end of 1949 (according to rate books)	7,900
Rateable Value (1st April, 1950)	£123,518
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated 1950/51)	£492

SANITARY STAFF

Medical Officer: A. Lennox Thorburn, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent: John S. Townley, Cert. S.I.B., A.M.INST.P.C.

First Additional Sanitary Inspector: John Craven, M.R.S.I.

Second Additional Sanitary Inspector: T. H. Aldrich, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Engineer & Surveyor: H. Crabtree, M.I.MUN.E.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District is situated in the south-east of Cheshire. It adjoins the county of Salop in the south and the county of Stafford in the east, and forms part of the alluvial plain of Cheshire. It surrounds the Borough of Crewe and Urban District of Nantwich. Whilst the area is predominantly agricultural a large proportion of the population is to be found in those parishes contiguous to Crewe and Nantwich in which towns they find their employment. The main source of employment in the Rural District is agriculture, and industries allied with it. These take the form of milk and milk product factories, corn mills, and agricultural engineering; the latter having increased locally with the mechanisation of farming. There is one clothing factory which in the main employs female labour. There is no unemployment in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	441	227	214
Illegitimate	16	6	10

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17.32, the figure for the whole of England being 16.7.

Still Births	...	...	...	...	9	5	4
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births), 19.31.							
Deaths	...	...	...	...	320	162	158
Death Rate per 1,000 of the							
resident population					...	12.13	
Deaths from Puerperal causes NIL.							

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	26.25		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	22.67
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	125
				Total	Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	53	28	25	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			—	—	—	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	—

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which received or requires comment:—

Unfortunately, the last quarter of the year was marred, in a hitherto uneventful year, by a high number of cases of poliomyelitis with a high morbidity rate. There were 18 cases and 5 proved fatal. The seasonal curve for this disease is remarkably regular, rising in June to reach its peak in August, September or October, and normally dying with the advent of colder weather, but lately appears to occur all round the year.

The evidence of the epidemiological findings pointed to droplet spread (like influenza) rather than by intestinal spread (like enteric fever). Exception was taken to reception at distant hospitals because of the fatiguing journey involved to the dangerously ill. Overtures to the Manchester Regional Hospital Board to use a suitably equipped local isolation hospital were unavailing. The Ministry of Health were acquainted with the outbreak by their observer on the spot.

Deaths: The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age (males and females) was 12.

The conditions of occupations and environments of the population are healthy.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Immunisation against Diphtheria continues at a lower level, but there has been a sharp fall in the Vaccination of infants due to the repeal of the Vaccination Acts.

With respect to Diphtheria Immunisation there is no doubt that the lower figures are entirely due to the failure to reach agreement on financial terms—and I must add that I believe the General Practitioners should have been offered compatible fees considering the work and time involved. Like several other scales in medicine these fees are still of pre-war vintage.

Statistics show that 73% of all schoolchildren were protected and 39.3% of children under school age likewise. Only one case of Diphtheria occurred during the year. This patient had previously been immunised and recovered.

The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in his Annual Report for 1949 estimates that not more than 20% of all infants received protection against Smallpox. I would add that it is about 10% for this area. It should be evident to all that breaches in our health defences should not occur and indeed the establishment of a lethal epidemic in any unvaccinated population would be very likely nowadays when one considers the swiftness of travel by air as well as by sea. All medical practitioners agree that infant vaccination is a wise precaution and, in my opinion, compulsory vaccination should be restored. Outbreaks, some with fatalities, have already occurred with annoying and serious dislocation of communal activities.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health has opened a new laboratory at Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester. In future, it will undertake practically all bacteriological investigations except the chemical examination of water.

For local convenience samples of ice-cream and milk are examined at the Chester Royal Infirmary Laboratory.

AMBULANCE AND NURSING SERVICES

The Ambulance Service has operated under a steadily increasing volume of work at a tempo which, at times, has seriously endangered the emergency and casualty service. An entirely inadequate number and type of conveyances had to be made ready to dispose of a huge number and diversity of calls. The attitude of patients towards transport is still somewhat startling; so many feel sure that his or her case is really necessary, and is hurt when refused by their doctor or myself. The General Practitioners' loyal assistance has always been prominent and indeed has proved invaluable in running the service in an equitable and efficient manner. I fully expect that the number of calls will increase as the Hospital Board inevitably expands its ancillary services. I am pleased to add that there have been exceedingly few genuine complaints.

Practically all the District Nurses are suitably and comfortably maintained in their respective districts and wherever necessary furnishing and cars have been bought over by the County. Several will be borne in mind, with some priority no doubt, when new Council Houses are erected.

It is noted with great regret that health visitors cannot have priority for new cars although they are very essential users.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Much valuable work is being effected in this direction both preventive and curative at our local centres. The vital statistics reflect that this year and its predecessor were the healthiest years in our history and established new records. It speaks well for the County Medical Officer of Health that considering all available resources and the difficulty of staffing, these welfare centres are integrated in a well planned organisation embracing patients, midwife, health visitor and clinician. A word of praise here is due to the loyal band of voluntary workers who man the clinics and greatly assist with the foods and weighing, and without whom the Service would quickly stop. There is scope for another welfare centre in the Wistaston—Willaston area and the County Medical Officer of Health has already surveyed suitable premises in the vicinity.

Attendances at Welfare Centres are as follows:—

		Nantwich	Shavington	Audlem	Haslington
Number	0-1	43	34	39	40
of case	1-5	4	2	4	2

		Nantwich	Shavington	Audlem	Haslington
Total	0-1	1004	407	422	502
Atten- dances	1-5	561	382	353	386
Number of Sessions	—	48	21	24	26
Number of Cases seen by Doctor		371	159	174	308

There are no ante-natal clinics so far in the area, but this lack will be made good when the structural alterations at the Nantwich Welfare Centre are completed. Incorporated in it will also be a post-natal clinic. The present Maternity Hospital at the Wybunbury Cliffe, although a most efficient institution, is in my opinion, not sufficiently accessible to both clinician and patient.

It will be noted that nursing and expectant mothers are making little use whatsoever of the excellent dental facilities at the Nantwich Welfare Centre. It is sincerely hoped that this position will improve when the new Ante-Natal Clinic is established and thereby providing necessary ancillaries all under the same roof. So far we have been most fortunate in retaining the services of the School Dental Officer. I understand there is a long waiting list for school children in this District for operations on ear, nose and throat. The waiting time at the Crewe and Chester Hospitals is approximately twelve months. I would confine my remarks merely to observe that it is most regrettable that many of the Rural General Practitioners will not avail themselves of the immediate services at the Cottage Hospital and the qualified surgeons attached thereto.

HOSPITALS

The Barony Hospital at Nantwich serves the Rural and Urban Districts and also Crewe to some extent. It provides approximately 210 beds which in the main are chronic sick.

The former Isolation Hospital at Worleston is being converted for convalescent cases and isolation of infectious cases from the Rural Area is taking place at the Crewe Isolation Hospital.

There is a Cottage Hospital at Nantwich with accommodation for 18 patients.

The Maternity Home at Wybunbury Cliffe is ably fulfilling a vital need in the District.

There is an Agricultural and Industrial Colony for residential treatment of Tuberculosis cases capable of some work, situated in the District. This institution is situated at Wrenbury Hall and was presented to the Cheshire County Council by the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association.

MORTUARY

To overcome the difficulty of replacing the unsatisfactory mortuary facilities, arrangements have been made with the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee for the mortuary at the Barony Hospital to serve the needs of the Rural District.

DISINFECTION

The closing of the Isolation Hospital at Worleston necessitated alternative arrangements for steam disinfection of infected and infested bedding, etc., and arrangements have been made with the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee for this work to be done at the Crewe Isolation Hospital.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The Council is responsible for the administration of Section 47, with respect to removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention, and Section 50, with respect to burial or cremation of the dead where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made.

The case under Section 47 adjourned sine die last year has settled itself, and a further case under this section was satisfactorily dealt with by informal action.

The Council acted in one instance under Section 50 with respect to a Polish displaced person.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Council are constituent members of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board.

This body is responsible for supplies to the whole of the area, with the exception of the Parish of Peckforton which is

supplied by the Trustees of the Peckforton Estate who have a private agreement with the Liverpool Corporation whose Vyrnwy Aqueduct runs through the estate. This supply is augmented by private supplies from springs and wells. The only other parish without a mains supply is Wirswall, and the Water Board have a scheme in progress to provide this parish with the service, along with improvements to existing supplies in the parishes of Marbury and Norbury.

Full particulars of the present water supplies position generally throughout the district will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, herewith.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Further discussions have been held between this Council and the Crewe Corporation regarding the details of the suggested Joint Sewerage Scheme, but little progress has been made towards a basis of agreement upon which such scheme can be accepted by either party. A meeting of the two Local Authorities with the Cheshire County Council, at which an endeavour will be made to reach some measure of agreement, is to be held early in 1950.

The Council have received the permission of the Ministry of Health to present detail schemes for the Sewering of Larch Avenue (Barnard), Weston Village, Wybunbury Village, and the Peacock Row area of Willaston Parish.

Other schemes for sewerage Audlem, Alpraham, Burland, Bunbury, Brindley, Calveley, Faddiley, Newhall, Worleston and Wrenbury have received the approval of the Cheshire County Council under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, and will be presented to the Ministry of Health for sanction in accordance with the priority programme approved by the Council.

During the year the Council considered the drainage of the Pool Lane area of Haslington as an emergency measure and received the sanction of the Ministry of Health to the laying of a 9in. sewer from Sandy Lane and Hassall Road via Pool Lane to the existing sewer in Crewe-Sandbach Road near Winterley Pool. The work was completed during the year and a decided improvement in the sanitary condition of the properties has already been indicated.

After many delays the work of sewerage the Cheerbrook Road area of Willaston Parish has been carried out with exten-

sions to include the majority of the premises in Newcastle Road as far as the Town Planning Map provides for immediate development.

The Outfall and Disposal Works to receive the drainage of Worleston and Aston districts have been completed and are now in working order.

In connection with the Council's Housing sites, at Lightwood Green (Dodcott) and Broomhall, the necessary sewers with Septic Tanks have been constructed.

Schemes for the sewerage of the Housing Sites at Barthomley, Cholmondeston, Hankelow, Spurstow, and Wybunbury and Church Minshull are being prepared and will be carried out as these sites are developed.

HOUSING

I come to the greatest problem which all local governments face to-day and confess that the attitude of the Government appals me. The tragically inadequate target of 200,000 houses per annum for the next three years for the whole Country is a most serious blow to the large number of families on our housing list and in my opinion trifles with the people's most urgent need. At the present building rate the housing lists will not be cleared off for ten years! Every week I interview several families on this depressing and deplorable situation. Although all members of these unfortunate families suffer, undoubtedly the greatest burden falls on the mother, with consequent lowering of morale and allied nervous disorders. It remains a matter for some quiet reflection whether the coming generation can withstand the dangers which may arise from the lowering of moral codes.

Another aspect of the housing problem causing concern is that the Rent Restriction Act transforms the private landlord into a trustee. Since he has not the free disposal of his property and as landlords are denied the financial means of keeping their property in repair, sound private property is fast falling into decay and slums are imminent because rents are inadequate for maintenance. Tenants thereby are suffering also.

Local Authorities are not bound by these same restrictions and almost all have been forced to raise their council house rents by 37% although their properties are generally much more recent and so, less costly in repairs.

In the 1948 report it was suggested that Building progress was very slow owing to shortage of labour and materials and this fact is further reflected in the number of houses completed during 1949. During the year only 34 dwellings were completed under the Council's scheme and of these six formed part of the Conversion scheme at Stoke Manor.

In addition some 20 Dwellings were erected under Licence by Private Enterprise.

A detailed list of Council houses completed is: Broomhall (2), Bunbury (4), Bulkeley (4 Airey), Shavington (4), Stoke Manor (6), Warmingham (6 Airey) and Wrenbury (8 Airey).

Work on the erection of further houses on various sites is

Lightwood Green (Dodcott).....	6 Airey
Wybunbury	6 Airey
Church Minshull	4 Airey
Acton	14
Bunbury	18
Haslington	6
Alpraham	4
Broomhall	6
Wrenbury	8 (by Contract)
	8 (by Direct Labour)
By Private Enterprise	14
	—
Total...	94
	—

Contracts have also been entered into for the erection of houses at Church Minshull (4), Spurstow (12) and Wybunbury (8).

Notification of a further allocation of houses for 1950 by the Ministry of Health have been received and instructions to proceed on the following sites have been given:

Barthomley	6
Buerton	6
Cholmondeston	8
Hankelow	8
Shavington	22
Weston	8
Private Enterprise	7

The Ministry of Health has offered the Holly Tree Farm Military camp in the Parish of Walgherton for adaptation as Housing accommodation and a scheme has been prepared and

submitted which provides for some 18 temporary dwellings on this site.

Under the Control of Civil Building—Defence Regulation 56a Building Licences to the value of £40,319 have been issued during the year.

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Towards the end of the year this new Amending Act to the Housing Act, 1936, came into force. Under these amendments facilities for acquiring dwellings for occupation by the applicant, were increased and already there is an indication that more advantage will be taken of this part of the Act than heretofore.

The other chief feature is the power of Local Authorities with consent of the Ministry of Health to give assistance by way of Grant towards the carrying out of conversion or improvement works which satisfactorily provide additional living accommodation in existing properties.

The indication is that many property owners will avail themselves of this opportunity to improve the character of their premises within the limits of expenditure allowed.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

No action under this heading was found to be necessary during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There are approximately 3,105 pail closets at residential premises in the district, which are now receiving a cleansing service each week.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent which deals with this matter is attached hereto.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Periodical inspections have been made and no infringements found.

CAMPING SITES

There are no camping sites in the district and when applications for licences under Section 269 of the Public Health

Act, 1936, for individual caravans on isolated sites are made, each case is considered by the Council on its own merits. Licences with respect to two vans are in force.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in this area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

- (1) Number of houses found to be infected:
 - (a) Council housesNIL
 - (b) Other houses 1
 - Number of houses disinfected..... 1
- (2) Method employed when cases do arise is the use of D.D.T. or Gammexane.
- (3) Method employed to ensure belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council HousesNIL
- (4) Disinfestation is carried out by Local Authority as required by arrangement.
- (5) Advice is given to occupiers of houses after disinfestation.

SCHOOLS

There is evident need for several new schools in this area and also a long outstanding and clamant need in others for modernisation. This fact especially applies to sanitation. To those who would point out that we are no worse than other counties, I would mention the progress and drive exhibited by Hertfordshire. This County has built 31 new schools since 1946 and plans another 19 for 1950.

The following schools were closed during the year:

- Weston County Primary...23. 2.49 to 7. 3.49 measles
- Cholmondeley C.E.23. 2.49 to 7. 3.49 whooping cough
- Hankelow C.E. 8. 3.49 to 21. 3.49 whooping cough
- Audlem C.E. (Junior) ...11. 3.49 to 21. 3.49 whooping cough (Infants Dept.)
- Shavington County 1.11.49 to 21.11.49 Poliomyelitis (Mixed) Primary
- Shavington County 1.11.49 to 21.11.49 Poliomyelitis (Infants) Primary

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This matter is dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector which is attached hereto.

NUTRITION

This work is undertaken by the Divisional Health Committee.

In spite of propaganda the uptake of Welfare Foods is not nearly as good as it might be, this in spite of cod liver oil and Vitamin A and D Tablets being free of charge.

The quantities of foods issued and sold are as follows:

Proprietary Foods	10,465 lbs.
National Dried Milk	8,000 tins
Orange Juice.....	6,690 bottles
A and D Vitamins.....	416 packets

SHELL FISH

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were 30 cases of Scarlet Fever against 41 last year. Diphtheria remained at the same low level, there being one case during the year; the patient had been immunised.

Three specimens were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, and one found to be positive.

Application to the court of Summary Jurisdiction for an order under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was successfully made for the removal to hospital of a Pole who was suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract, whose circumstances were such that proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection could not be taken at the Hostel in which he resided.

24 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, of which 21 were pulmonary.

There were two cases of deaths from Tuberculosis which had not been previously notified.

B.C.G.—TUBERCULIN SURVEY

During the years following the war, publicity has been focussed on tuberculosis, among other diseases, largely because of shortage of staffed beds in hospitals and sanatoria. It is a welcome sign on the part of the public that it has not adopted a complacent attitude towards the future problems of this disease.

This division of Cheshire has just completed a tuberculin survey which will greatly assist the later scheme of immunisation against tuberculosis by the B.C.G. Vaccine. Let it be said here and now what B.C.G. will not eradicate tuberculosis in itself, but it will cause a vast reduction in primary infections represented by T.B. meningitis, miliary T.B., cutaneous T.B., gland T.B.. and certain forms of pleurisy.

In Denmark and Sweden, where B.C.G. Vaccination is universal, T.B. meningitis among immunised children simply does not occur.

I am most grateful to all parents who permitted their children to participate in the Survey.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
15	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age unknown	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	10	3	—	2	2	2	—
	21		3		4		2	

Total Cases: 24

Total Deaths: 6.

Number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year:

Males		Females	
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
57	33	52	39

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action has been taken by this Authority.

PREVENTIVE AND CURATIVE MEDICINE

Hospital waiting lists and out-patient clinics are working to full capacity and there are no signs of a diminution but rather the reverse. It is only right that patients should receive adequate and proper treatment but the preventive aspect of medicine has been entirely lost sight of in the new scheme. Vast sums are expended on palliation of Rheumatism and Cancer, etc. Prevention is not only better than cure, it is cheaper! Diphtheria immunisation has proved that! The Research teams of the Medical Research Council working on preventive subjects do not compare in number or resources with those engaged, for example, in Atomic Bomb research.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

The following is a tabular statement of the cases of notifiable diseases which were reported during the year:

	Cases Notified	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	30	21	NIL
Diphtheria	1	1	NIL
Pneumonia	30	—	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	NIL
Whooping Cough	107	—	NIL
Measles	291	—	NIL
Erysipelas	2	—	NIL
Ac. Poliomyelitis	18	16	5

Cases of Infectious Disease showing the incidence of cases in various age periods among civilians.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	TOTALS
Under 1	—	—	1	—	4	9	—	—	14
1 year + ...	—	—	1	—	10	22	—	2	35
2 years + ...	1	—	1	—	17	41	—	2	62
3 years + ...	2	—	1	—	11	46	—	1	61
4 years + ...	—	—	1	—	16	42	—	—	59
5 years + ...	19	—	7	—	40	114	—	3	183
10 years + ...	2	1	—	—	6	9	1	1	20
15 years + ...	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	3	9
20 years + ...	2	—	—	—	1	4	—	4	11
35 years + ...	1	—	4	—	—	2	—	2	9
45 years + ...	—	—	5	—	2	—	1	—	8
65 years + ...	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Age unknown	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total all ages	30	1	30	1	107	291	2	18	480

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my fifteenth Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

INSPECTIONS

Public Health Act, 1936	1845
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926	95
Factories Act, 1937	42
Housing Act, 1936	915
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	267
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 ...	160
Shops Act	22
Infectious Diseases	118
National Assistance Act, 1948	8

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified and appropriate action taken:

Scarlet Fever	30
Diphtheria	1
Whooping Cough	107
Pneumonia	30
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Measles	291
Erysipelas	2
Infantile Paralysis	18

PUBLIC CLEANSING

All residential premises and schools in the district are now receiving the scavenging service which includes the fortnightly removal of house refuse from dustbins and the weekly cleansing of pail closets.

The area is divided into eight districts and nine Karrier Bantam Refuse Collectors, convertible for collection of nightsoil, are being operated to implement the service.

Repair and maintenance of transport is done in the Council's own workshops at the depot at Stapeley House. The direct labour arrangements not only reduces cost, but also minimises time loss due to breakdowns.

Reorganisation of working schedules has been necessary in consequence of the reduction of the working week from 47 to 44 hours, and to accommodate new premises erected since the war.

Disposal of household refuse by controlled tipping and land reclamation has continued and still proves the best method available, and no difficulty has been experienced in finding suitable sites.

Approximately 54—300 gallon loads of nightsoil are collected from 3,105 pails each week and all this is now composted with straw and waste paper to produce nightsoil composted manure which is disposed of without any difficulty.

Salvage has practically finished but householders are requested to exclude waste paper from dustbins and to keep this material for collection separately. Any unsaleable paper is used for composting.

The labour position has provided no problems during the year under review, and new recruits for the service are readily available as vacancies arise.

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION

Dustbins have now been provided at all residential premises and schools in the area, which marks a considerable step forward when it is remembered that ashpits and dumps were all too common until a few years ago. There are 6,935 bins being cleansed each fortnight.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

During the year 753 visits have been made in connection with investigation and treatment of infestations at private dwellings, business premises and local authority properties.

Treatments in accordance with technique of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was carried out at 29 business premises, 14 private dwellings, and 21 local authority properties, the latter being chiefly refuse tips and sewage works.

The annual contract system for treatments at business premises proves popular with managements and as it provides regular supervision and inspection, it minimises the risk of serious infestation arising. There is no doubt that premises that are susceptible to infestation such as corn mills, food stores, etc., should be kept under constant supervision, no matter how well they may be constructed and proofed, and the contract system affords the opportunity to both the occupiers and the local authority that the requirements of the law in this connection are being properly administered to the advantage of all concerned.

CANAL BOATS

Several visits have been made to the Canals but no boats were seen.

HOUSING

Administration of Sections 9 and 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 have again been limited owing to shortage of labour and materials, and considerable difficulty has been experienced in having even minor repairs executed under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to obviate nuisances.

How much longer drastic action under the repair and demolition sections of the Housing Act, 1936 can safely be postponed is very doubtful. It is becoming increasingly evident that existing housing conditions are deteriorating so rapidly that in many cases only large-scale reconstruction can save those houses concerned.

Further delay will also result in many houses which might be considered for reconditioning now having to be dealt with under demolition procedure.

Special circumstances have arisen which have prompted the Council to take action for demolition and it is likely that many more similar cases will arise in the near future. In one instance tenants of a sub-standard house were being considered for the tenancy of a Council House and it was obvious that steps should be taken to see that this house was not re-occupied in its present condition. In another case an owner only desired

to execute the very minimum repairs on the pretence that it was his intention to erect new farm-workers' cottages, when circumstances permit, as replacements. The conditions were so bad in this case that agreement on these lines could not be entertained.

With such formidable waiting lists for Council Houses before them it is difficult to know how soon local authorities will be able to re-house families residing in sub-standard dwellings. These people do not get full recognition of their existing circumstances under the points scheme unless demolition procedure is strictly followed, and seem to have little hope of a Council House at the moment, on the assumption that any sort of house is better than none at all, the preference being given to those in lodgings. On the other hand the local authority has no guarantee that on re-occupation of the sub-standard dwelling another tenant will not press his case on the same unsatisfactory conditions.

A general policy on the administration of the Housing Acts in the light of the post-war conditions is long overdue, as approach to the matter on pre-war lines is totally out of the question.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is one tripe-dressing establishment in the area which is kept under regular supervision, and causes no nuisance.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following is a copy of Form 572, forwarded by the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the guidance of Medical Officers of Health in preparing that part of their Annual Report which relates to factories.

Part 1 of the Act

1 Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	No. on Register	Inspections	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
			Written notices		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42	12	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	98	31	6	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority + (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	140	43	6	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (i)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	Referred by H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2	.....	.....	.....
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
(a) insufficient	3	3	.....	.....	.....
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	5	.....	5	.....	.....
TOTAL	11	5	5	.....	....

OUTWORK (SECTION 110-111)

No work of this description is carried out in this District.

Review of certificates of means of escape in case of fire under Section 34 has taken place in consultation with the Fire Prevention Officer of the County Fire Brigade with respect to six factories.

WATER SUPPLY

The Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board having become the responsible authority for water supplies throughout the Rural District under its own Act of Parliament, has brought the Council's Public Health Department in more direct contact with this important service particularly with respect to private supplies, the Council's Engineer having previously been the responsible officer.

There are still many points of procedure and control to be agreed upon with the Water Board arising from the fact that the Act under which they operate empowers them to administer those sections of the Public Health Act, 1936 relative to water supplies in the same way as this Council. It is quite evident that two authorities cannot with advantage operate the same legislation unless some agreement is reached as to procedure to be adopted.

In order that a complete picture of local circumstances could be formed as a basis for discussion with the Water Board, it was decided that a survey should be made of all premises which, according to the Council's rate books, were not paying any charges for water.

According to the information supplied by the Rates Department it was found that 27 parishes are completely supplied with water, that two had no supply (Wirswall and Peckforton) from mains under the jurisdiction of the Water Board, and that in the 40 remaining parishes covered by the survey 131 premises were without a mains supply from the Water Board.

Of the 131 premises it was found that 19 were supplied through private sources, 38 have no supply at all, the remaining 74 having supplies from springs and wells.

The figures mentioned above do not, of course, include for the parishes of Wirswall and Peckforton. So far as Wirswall

is concerned it is understood that the Water Board have a scheme in progress to extend the service to this parish along with improvements to the existing supplies in the neighbouring parishes of Marbury and Norbury. There are some eight farms and twenty-six residential premises in the Parish of Wirswall and the existing supplies are from a roadside public well, a private supply, and individual wells to premises. The public roadside supply consists of two small tanks constructed of concrete, and fitted with a pump. These shallow tanks are so situated as to render the water therein liable to pollution from adjoining property and the roadway.

The private supply referred to serves a farm and adjoining cottage property to which there is a piped supply.

The parish of Peckforton consists of nine farms and thirty-six residential premises and is supplied with water under arrangements controlled by the Trustees of the Peckforton Estate except for one house which has a meter supply from the Water Board. With the exception of six isolated premises which have wells, all have a tap supply inside the house, thirty being supplied from the Liverpool Corporation mains and eight, including the Castle, from the spring-fed Roman Bath supply in Horsley Lane (Tarvin R.D.C.) which is pumped by rams to supply the Castle from where seven premises are fed by gravitation. The Roman Bath also provides water for a number of premises in the Tarvin Rural District.

It will be seen that the two main sources of supply at Peckforton are the Liverpool Main and the Roman Bath, the former supply should normally be above suspicion but arrangements are available whereby it can be augmented by spring and well supplies which can be passed into it at will. The Roman Bath supply passes through a series of storage tanks and without periodical examination and analysis cannot be guaranteed wholesome.

Private piped supplies from doubtful sources are in use in the district in addition to those at Peckforton and Wirswall. They are on the Combermere Abbey Estate, the Dorfold Hall Estate and the Darnhall Estate, the latter being situate outside this district.

The Combermere Abbey Estate supply serves the Abbey and cottage property in the vicinity of the Abbey. The source of the water is the Mere from which the water is taken and pumped by means of a hydraulic ram to sand filter beds and a storage tank and then fed by gravity to the property it serves.

The Dorfold Hall Estate supply provides water for one farm and four cottages. Water is pumped from a spring-fed well to a tank in the windmill tower known as Ravensmoor Windmill which is situated in a field adjacent to the Wrexham Road. The supply which is piped to the premises is inadequate and of doubtful quality.

The Darnhall Estate supply provides water for two farm-workers' cottages in the parish of Wettenhall.

Six premises in the parish of Blakenhall are supplied by mains extension from the British Railways' Whitmore Supply.

From the above it will be seen that there is still a considerable amount of work to be done to ensure that all premises in the Rural District have an adequate and wholesome supply of water.

Whilst some of the wells are of sound construction, even these, along with the others, will have to be sampled. The private supplies will also have to be thoroughly investigated, and decision reached as to how far some of these might be considered public supplies.

The Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board having powers of administration of the relevant sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended in certain cases by the Water Act, 1945, will have to be consulted as the water undertakers to ensure smooth and expeditious administration.

Many of the matters referred to in this report must be considered urgent and an early understanding with the Water Board should be sought.

FOOD

MEAT AND FOODS

Licences were issued with respect to 25 slaughter-houses, but no slaughtering has been carried on within the district. Inspections of meat have been made at the Coldstore and several carcasses of meat were trimmed for moulds.

Inspection of other foods at shops and warehouses was continuously carried out and resulted in the following being condemned, due mostly to decomposition, blowing, and contamination with extraneous matter:—

Cheese, 14½lbs. Fats, 3lbs. Sugar, 20lbs. Margarine, 32½lbs.

Bacon, 11½lbs. Butter, 45½lbs.

Milk (tinned), 29 tins.

Fresh Fish, 70lbs.

Meats, lunches, brawns, etc., 14 tins.

Vegetables, fruits, jams, etc., 16 tins.

A survey was made of all preserved food premises and shops with particular reference to water supplies and improvement of washing facilities for employees and to the storage of food adjacent to substances liable to cause taint. In several cases paraffin was removed from food shops and improved hot and cold water supplies have been provided.

ICE-CREAM

Fifteen premises were registered, eleven for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream, three for preparation by the cold mix method and one for manufacture by pasteurisation.

Regular inspection of these premises was made, and the standard of cleanliness was found to be good. Systematic sampling was carried out, and of 48 samples taken 23 failed to pass the methylene blue test.

Of the samples that failed most were pre-packed ice-cream manufactured outside this District, and the local authorities concerned were contacted, and kept informed of the results. The samples from the only pasteurising plant in the district constantly showed satisfactory results.

The Model Byelaws Series 1 are being adopted and their operation should make possible considerable improvements in the handling, wrapping and delivery of food.

MILK

On the 1st of October, 1949, a copy of the register of producers of milk in this area was handed to the County Milk Regulations Officer of the Agricultural Executive Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries becoming responsible for the production of milk on that date.

Pasteurisation by the H.T.S.T. process is carried out at three premises in the Rural District which are now under the supervision of the County Council.

Revision and compilation of new registers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, is in progress, and the issue of licences under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, is proceeding satisfactorily.

Licences have been issued as follows:—

Pasteurised (Supplementary)	9
Pasteurised (Dealer's)	1
Tuberculin Tested (Dealer's)... ..	9
Tuberculin Tested (Supplementary)	8
Sterilised (Dealer's)	2

The following milk samples were taken and examined:—

	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	16	2
Tuberculin Tested	16	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)... ..	15	—
TOTAL... ..	47	5

Forty-five samples taken by the County Council all complied with the prescribed conditions.

SEDIMENT TESTS

Twenty-six samples were collected from retailers in the district, of which 21 were found to be clean, 4 slightly contaminated and 1 dirty.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOTICES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Public Health Act, 1936

Preliminary Notices Served	98
Preliminary Notices complied with	17
Statutory Notices Served	81
Statutory Notices complied with	54

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Preliminary Notices Served	7
Preliminary Notices complied with	1
Statutory Notices Served	6
Statutory Notices complied with	6

Factories Act, 1937

Statutory Notices Served	6
Statutory Notices complied with	5

There was one prosecution under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for obstruction, which was successful.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN S. TOWNLEY,
Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

